Today's News - June 30, 2005

Freedom Tower at Ground Zero: a sampling of reviews and editorials (weighing in on the side of bleak, sorry to say). -- Balancing security and aesthetics in Washington, DC, "have made this city of magnificent vistas a bit less magnificent." -- Eminent domain ruling raises hackles and fear. -- Permission granted to remove 2 Columbus Circle façade - and another to dismantle the interior. -- On a brighter note (thankfully): Norten loves New York (and vice versa). -- Another rousing thumbs-up for Serpentine's "tortoise." -- Walker walks away with first Jellicoe Gold Medal.

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Freedom Tower's Redesign Substitutes Dullness for Inspiration: It's a monument to bureaucratic bungling and political gutlessness. By James S. Russell -- David Childs/Skidmore Owings & Merrill; Daniel Libeskind- Bloomberg News

Too much fortress, not enough beauty: the latest proposal for the WTC site has dignity but fails to synthesize armor and aesthetics. By Blair Kamin -- Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Libeskind- Chicago Tribune

A Tower of Impregnability, the Sort Politicians Love: The new design for the Freedom Tower is exactly what officials said would never happen: an impregnable tower braced against the outside world. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Daniel Libeskind [images, links]- New York Times

Freedom Tower: A high-profile compromie: ...redesign... is better than many expected and not nearly good enough. By Justin Davidson -- David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Daniel Libeskind [images, links]- NY Newsday

Editorial: A Better Tower: What matters about the design for the new Freedom Tower is not what we make of it, but what developer Larry Silverstein will.- New York Times

Problems? More on the way: If Gov.Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg want us to cheer the latest incarnation, they better offer a cure for design fatigue.- NY Daily News

Editorial: Hard-Nosed Practicality Reflects the Vision of David Childs: All New Yorkers, and Americans in general, ever wanted from this whole process was a design that could be viewed with pride and without embarrassment. Now, it seems, we have that.- New York Sun

Ground Zero Planners Urge Mall-Size Collection of Shops: ...public officials now openly acknowledge that the most viable and market-driven development that can take place there is a mall, not office towers. -- Callison Architecture- Wall Street Journal

Balancing Security and Aesthetics: Protecting Washington landmarks from truck bombs is a monumental task...have made this city of magnificent vistas a bit less magnificent. -- Laurie Olin; Ralph Appelbaum; Michael Van Valkenburgh- Wall Street Journal

The Buyouts Versus the Holdouts: The Supreme Court's ruling on eminent domain has left homeowners wondering whether they will be forced out to make way for malls.- New York Times

Permit Issued for Long-Disputed Work at 2 Columbus Circle -- Edward Durell Stone (1964); Cloepfil/Allied Works Architecture; Handel Architects- New York Times

A Mexican Architect at Home in New York -- Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos [images]- New York Times

A delightful tortoise in the gardens: The latest pavilion to spring up outside the Serpentine Gallery resembles nothing so much as a 'tortoise', the defence that Roman soldiers created with their shields. You need to penetrate its shell to appreciate its subtlety. By Giles Worsley -- Alvaro Siza/Eduardo Souto de Moura; MVRDV; Hadid; Libeskind; Ito [image]- Telegraph (UK)

Peter E. Walker, FASLA, first-ever recipient of the International Federation of Landscape Architects' (IFLA) Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Gold Medal- American Society of Landscape Architect (ASLA)

June '05 Build Business: Presentations Wanted: Alive, Not Dead. By Carol Doscher

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-- Richard Meier & Partners: Ara Pacis Museum, Rome, Italy

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